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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47A of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 9 and 10 March 1977

PE 47.855

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-279/76)

Subject: Portugal's application for membership of the
European Community

Is it correct that the Portuguese government has announced its intention of submitting a formal application for membership of the European Community? What is the Council's position on this application?

2. Question by Mrs EWING (H-284/76)

Subject : Power of legislative initiative for the European Parliament

In view of the decision taken by the Community Heads of Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their meeting in Paris in December 1974 that the European Parliament should be granted certain powers in the Communities' legislative process, and following the proposals made in the Tindemans Report on this matter, what action does the Council now propose to take to grant powers of legislative initiative to the European Parliament?

3. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-285/76)

Subject: US legislation - Domestic International Sales Corporation

The USA are reported to be willing to abolish their DISC legislation, which infringes Article 16(4) of GATT, if, in return, three Member States of the Community amend their tax laws and if a world-wide review of tax legislation is undertaken.

Does not the Council consider that this give-and-take approach is inadmissible, since the USA introduced and applied the DISC system unilaterally, and what action does it now intend to take?

4. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-108/76)

Subject : Economic and Monetary Union

Will the Council state what progress has been made towards economic and monetary union in the Community during the last 4 years and what steps it intends to take to achieve this aim during the next four years?

5. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-294/76)

Subject : Direct Elections

Has the President-in-Office carried out his promise to explain to other members of the Council why certain British M.P.s are prepared to jeopardise the Direct Election Bill in order to prevent the Devolution Bill getting through the House of Commons?

6. Question by Sir Peter KIRK (H-314/76)

Subject : Preparations for direct elections of the European Parliament

What progress can the Council report from individual Member States about preparations for direct elections in May 1978?

7. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-296/76)

Subject : European Communities' Institute for Economic Analysis and Research

When does the Council intend to take the final decision on the establishment and location of this Institute, for which the European Parliament established a total appropriation of 1 m.u.a. at the final stage of the 1977 budget procedure ?

8. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-299/76) (x)

Subject : Lomé Convention

What financial or other assistance, direct or indirect, was given to the recent Conference held in Kampala under the Lomé Convention?

9. Question by Mr HOUGARDY (H-304/76)

Subject: Introduction of a uniform passport

Could the Council indicate whether the recent statement by the British Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, describing the future European passport, to be issued by the British authorities, was founded on the conclusions of the working party set up by the 1974 Paris Summit to report on the uniform passport which should be introduced, according to the decision of the 1975 European Council in Rome, before 1978?

10. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-305/76)

Subject: European aeronautical industry

Is the Council aware that rapid implementation of its declaration announcing a common programme for civil transport aircraft is very nearly the last chance of saving the European aeronautical industry at a time when the recent decision by the American company Western Airlines not to order the Airbus comes as a further setback to European aircraft builders, whose share of the Western market is rapidly declining while the American firm Boeing secured for itself in 1976 more than 72% of the world market?

(x) This question will be followed by those from Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-300/76) and from Mr PATIJN (H-306/76) submitted to the Commission.

11. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-310/76)

Subject : Euro-Arab Dialogue

What was the outcome of the second meeting of the General Committee in Tunis on 10/11/12 February, 1977?

12. Question by Mr SHAW (H-311/76)

Subject : Sixth VAT Directive

What has held up publication of the Sixth VAT Directive, agreed by the Council on 16 December 1976?

QUESTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

13. Question by Mr JOHNSTON (H-308/76)

Subject : Imprisonment and torture of Mohammed Salag Sliss

To ask the Conference whether in view of the close economic and cultural relations of the Community to the Republic of Tunisia, it will make representations to the Tunisian Government concerning the imprisonment and torture of Mohammed Salag Sliss?

14. Question by Lord St. OSWALD (H-259/76)

Subject : Relations with Mozambique

What relations or contacts has the Community with FUMO (the United Democratic Front of Mozambique) and the Mozambique Government in Exile which it has established in Paris under the premiership of the distinguished African lawyer, Dr. Domingos Arouca; in particular, are these relations or contacts closer or looser than those with SWAPO, or of similar nature?

15. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-280/76)

Subject: Third 'basket' of the Helsinki Agreements

What position does the Conference intend to adopt on behalf of the Nine in Belgrade at the June meeting of the signatory States of the Final Act of Helsinki as regards the protection of fundamental human rights in Europe?

16. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-289/76/rev.)

Subject : Monitoring of Helsinki Final Act

To ask the Conference of Foreign Ministers whether they are aware of the existence in Moscow of the Committee for the Observance of the Helsinki Final Act; whether they are aware of the names and addresses of its members; whether through the political co-operation machinery of the Nine they will arrange for diplomatic representatives from one or more Member States to meet these individuals in order to obtain the results of their work and to bring these results to the attention of the Governments of the Nine.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

17. Question by Mr KASPEREIT (H-244/76)

Subject : Relations with Iran

Does the mandate given by the Council to the Commission for a trade and economic cooperation agreement with Iran include directives on the subject of refined petroleum products?

If not, how does the Commission intend to approach this matter and reach agreement with the Iranian authorities?

18. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-246/76)

Subject : Common Sheep Policy

Is it a priority of the new Commission to press for the early adoption of a Common Sheep Policy in the Community?

19. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-252/76)

Subject : Transport in peripheral regions

Will the Commission consider the introduction of special subsidies for the transport of goods from regions of the Community to offset their remoteness from the market place?

20. Question by Mr SHAW (H-275/76)

Subject : Community Statistics

Why does the "Statistical programme of the European Communities 1977-1979" not contain any reference to the publication of a users' guide to Community statistics, listing publications and contact points for specific enquiries?

21. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-300/76) (x)

Subject : Lomé Convention

What financial or other assistance, direct or indirect, was given to the recent Conference held in Kampala under the Lomé Convention?

22. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-306/76) (x)

Subject : Relations between the EEC and Uganda

What steps is the Commission considering taking as regards Idi Amin's Uganda under the Lomé Convention, following the atrocities recently committed there?

23. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-307/76)

Subject : Butter exports

Why has the Commission on 14 February raised the general level of restitution for butter exports by 10 % to 159.75 ua per 100 kilos?

24. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-313/76)

Subject: Butter sales to the Soviet Union

Can the Commission explain why, after having issued export certificates for the sale of 40,000 tonnes of butter to the USSR at prices lower than Common Market prices, a transaction which is subject to EAGGF refunds, it decided to suspend for three days the possibility for other exporters to benefit from the current export refund?

Does the Commission not feel that, rather than subsidize Soviet consumers, it would be preferable to use the Community's trading potential to enforce the Helsinki Agreement on human rights, which is being violated in the USSR?

(x) These questions will be dealt with after the question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-299/76) submitted to the Council

25. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-281/76)

Subject : The CAP and inflation

Does the Commission agree that the greatest threat of the stability of the EEC is that of inflation; and if so will the Commission take that into account in formulating new proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy?

26. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-287/76)

Subject : Common Agricultural Prices

In view of the impossibility of achieving the aim of common agricultural prices by January 1978, will the Commission state by what date it now aims to achieve common agricultural prices throughout the Community, or whether no such date is at the present time foreseen?

27. Question by Mr LEMOINE (H-298/76)

Subject: Agricultural prices

In view of the fact that the Commission's report itself estimates the average increase of agricultural production costs in the Community at about 12% and notes a decline in agricultural incomes in several Member States, including France, does not the Commission consider it necessary to fix for the next marketing year a rate of increase of agricultural prices which is in line with rises in production costs and not, as it has proposed, a rate of increase which would result in a further fall in agricultural incomes?

28. Oral Question by Mr Kai NYBORG (H-277/76)

Subject: Supervision of aid to the hydrocarbons sector

Is the Commission keeping a check on the aid granted to development projects in the hydrocarbons sector and, if so, has that aid been used in accordance with the terms under which it was granted?

29. Question by Mrs EWING (H-283/76)

Subject : Siting in Scotland of Trade Union Institute

In view of the fact that the West of Scotland was the first area in Scotland to be developed under the Industrial Revolution and that it is the area with the heaviest social deprivation in the United Kingdom, will the Commission establish the proposed Trade Union Institute in the West of Scotland?

30. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-290/76)

Subject : British National Oil Company

Will the Commission report on the results of its examination of information supplied by the British Government concerning the Act establishing the British National Oil Company in the light of the provisions of Community law and what action will be taken to implement Community law referred to in written question No. 444/76 (1)?

(1) OJ No. 305, 27.12.1976, page 12

31. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-291/76)

Subject : Sale and lease-back of Concorde and Airbus aircraft

Has the Commission examined whether there could be a role for Community institutions in promoting the sale and lease-back of Concorde and A300 Airbus aircraft?

32. Question by Mr NOE' (H-292/76)

Subject : Domestic use of solar energy

Does the Commission not think that the forecasts of future energy requirements, which are being used as a basis for its useful studies of the role of electrical energy, might already allow for the utilization at an early date of solar energy for domestic hot water supplies?

33. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-293/76)

Subject : Uranium mining

Will the Commission report on what they have learned from their investigation promised by Commissioner BRUNNER, which they have made into the approach to the local people in Orkney in the matter of uranium mining, and what happens, in practice, when Community funds are used so that discredit does not rebound on the Community?

34. Question by Mr EVANS (H-295/76)

Subject : Export of skimmed milk powder, originally intended
as Food Aid, to Cuba

Why was skimmed milk powder, produced in Ireland and stored
in Newton-le-Willows, England, which was originally intended
as food aid, shipped from Liverpool to Cuba in a Russian ship ?

35. Question by Mr GIBBONS (H-297/76)

Subject : New Zealand butter on the U.K. Market

As recent reports indicate a serious reduction in butter
consumption on the U.K. Market over the next few years what
measures does the Commission intend to take to control
imports of butter from New Zealand, which, if they continue
at their present guaranteed high level, will be detrimental
to sales of Community produced butter on the U.K. market ?

36. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H301/76)

Subject: Development of intra-Community trade

Can the Commission state whether the slowing down in intra-Community
trade over the past few years, as compared with Community trade with
third countries, is a continuing trend, and if this is so, what effects
this might have on the cohesion of the Community and what action it
intends to take in this field?

37. Question by Mr Cousté (H-302/76)

Subject: Environmental protection programme

Within the context of its environmental protection programme, and in view of the fact that air and sea pollution know no frontiers, could the Commission indicate what progress has been made on cooperation with, for example, the United Nations, the OECD and the Council of Europe which are actively concerned with environmental problems; are the anti-pollution norms adopted by these organizations comparable with the measures to fight pollution adopted by the Community?

38. Question by Mr SPINELLI (H-303/76)

Subject : Community representation at the next summit

How will the Community be represented at the Western economic summit scheduled for the first half of May; what will be the role of the Commission and what proposals does it intend to put forward?

39. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-309/76)

Subject : Net Purchasing Power of Wages

Will the Commission undertake to publish regular comparisons of the net purchasing power of wages in each Member State for families of different sizes, taking into account the effective values of the currencies, the standard rates of personal tax and the normal statutory social contributions and benefits applicable in each case?

40. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-312/76)

Subject: Landing rights for Concorde

Owing to the delays in working out a common policy in the aeronautical sector, negotiations on operating and landing rights are conducted at bilateral level between the individual Member States and non-member countries. How does the Commission intend to overcome the difficulties presented by this system, which have been confirmed by the obstacles with which Concorde has recently been faced in respect of flights to and landing rights in the United States of America?